



**Reading program reaches out to youth**  
*See Page 1B*

**Stewart-Hunter women invited to the great outdoors**  
*See Page 1B*

**Claxton to round up rattlesnakes this weekend**  
*See Page 5B*



**Pregnancy PT ensures Soldier readiness**  
*See Page 1C*

# THE FRONTLINE

PRSRT STD U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit no. 43,  
Hinesville, Ga. 31314

Vol. 44, Issue 10

Serving the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities ([www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil))

March 12, 2009



## 92nd Chemical comes home

**Spc. Gaelen Lowers**  
*3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs*

More than 120 Soldiers with the 92nd Chemical Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade returned home, March 6 after a 15-month deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The company served as primary chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection and deconta-

mination trainers for nearly 2,700 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. In addition to their normal duties, they also provided security alongside the U.S. Secret Service for high-profile visitors to Kuwait, including former President George W. Bush; then Presidential Nominee Barack Obama; then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; and former Multi-National Forces-Iraq Commander General David Petraeus.

See **CHEMICAL** ————— Page 3A

## 4/64 Armor remembers fallen with OIF memorial

**Spc. Amanda McBride**  
*4th BCT Public Affairs*

Gathered around a marble memorial, Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, came together, March 5 to honor their fallen Tusker comrades in a memorial dedication service at the Tusker Operation Iraq Freedom memorial here.

Family, friends and colleagues

came out to pay respect to the eight warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice in serving their nation during the battalion's most recent deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The memorial, built in October 2006, was constructed with materials donated from the local community. The memorial also features an eastern redbud tree to symbolize a link with Warriors Walk.

See **MEMORIAL** ————— Page 5A

## Stewart-Hunter joins Army's fight to prevent Soldier suicides

**Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk**  
*3rd ID Public Affairs*

Last year marked the fourth consecutive year of increasing U. S. Army suicides.

Recognizing the drastic need for a change, the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield joined the Armywide fight to stop Soldier suicides with a "stand-

down" training session held March 5.

The stand-down helped to increase Soldiers' awareness of suicidal behavior and taught intervention skills to help recognize both verbal and nonverbal signs and symptoms of distressed battle buddies. In recognizing these signs and symptoms of suicidal Soldiers, the Army hopes to prevent the trend of losing its team members.

See **PREVENT** ————— Page 2A



Sgt. Jason Stadel

**NCOs compete for 'best of the best' - Sergeant Jacob Kersey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, muscles his way through the pull-ups portion of the Spartan Best NCO of the Year Competition, March 4 at Fort Stewart's Pond 10. Kersey went on to win the entire competition. See story on Page 10A.**



Spc. Monica K. Smith

**A joint military color guard presented the Colors at the Savannah Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Luncheon, Feb. 27, at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa. See Story on Page 8A.**

## Winn wins retention award

**Ann Erickson**  
*MEDDAC Public Affairs*

The Winn Army Community Hospital Retention Program has been awarded the Southeast Regional Medical Command Commanding General's Early Bird Award for Fiscal Year 2009.

After receiving the retention mission October 1, 2008, Winn re-enlisted 26 Soldiers, Oct. 2 as part of a 100 re-enlistment push in one day for SERMC. The

Commanding General's Early Bird award for FY09 was awarded to Winn for completing the retention mission seven months early. Since Oct. 1, the Winn Retention Program has reenlisted 83 Soldiers.

The Winn Army Retention Program is made up of the Medical Department Activity, Warrior Transition Battalion, Dental Activity and the Southeastern Veterinary Command.

See **AWARD** ————— Page 8A

## Combat Medic readies NCOs

**Spc. Ben Hutto**  
*3rd HBCT Public Affairs*

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** - First Sergeant Dobby Anderson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, will be the first to say how important Sgt. 1st Class Kristine Sutton, medical non-commissioned officer for BSTB, is to his organization.

Sutton is usually one of the first people to arrive at the

company in the early morning hours to conduct sick call screens for the company and BSTB's Headquarters' Troop, before conducting physical training herself. After that, Anderson explained there isn't much she doesn't do for their company and battalion.

"She attends training meetings, trains her medics, runs qualifying ranges, makes sure everyone's medical readiness is up to date and that's just off the top of my head," Anderson said. "She's a big part of the battalion."

See **MEDIC** ————— Page 10A



# Marne Soldiers set standard for cleanliness

**Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews**  
3rd ID Command Sgt. Maj.

It's that time of the year when the season changes; our days get longer; and the postwide Spring Cleanup approaches. Start preparing your to-do list and target March 13-24 as your opportunity to pack away your winter items and clear out some clutter.

Just to reinforce what I told you prior to Fall Cleanup, don't spend a few days focusing on area beautification and the rest of the year doing nothing. Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Kelley Hill are picturesque communities with facilities and amenities of a big city, enclosed in safe, Family-friendly rural areas. It's up to us who live and work on these installations to maintain that security and serenity.

As Dog Face Soldiers, we are standard

bearers. Noncommissioned officers and leaders need to instill the type of discipline that crushes the temptation to throw trash on the ground by making on-the-spot corrections. However, post cleanliness isn't just the responsibility of Soldiers.

It's incumbent on Soldiers, Family Members and civilians to walk a few extra feet to put shopping carts back in place, throw away trash and put cigarette butts away in receptacles.

It places a dark shadow over my pride to know that people deliberately throw trash on the ground because it would inconvenience them to do the right thing. So, let's all work at keeping our community immac-



ulate year-round. Then when it's time for consolidated postwide cleanup, we're not starting from the ground up.

During Spring Cleanup residents are responsible for the general cleanliness of the immediate areas around their home. This includes the front of the home out to the street, driveways, carports, fenced-in backyards and out-

door open storage areas. Make sure exterior lights and fire alarms work. Grills need to be cleaned and windows, gutters and roof drains should be cleaned and

checked for serviceability. Fire extinguishers should be checked, and hazardous material should be identified and properly disposed of, not thrown in dumpsters.

Soldiers who live in the barracks are also responsible for cleanliness of their rooms and buildings.

While in the process of cleaning offices, connexes and work areas, individuals are bound to find equipment or items they're unfamiliar with. Check with the unit property book officer before throwing anything away.

Our well manicured lawns and litter free grounds have earned us the funding to bring more amenities on post and build new and better properties, all to improve our quality of life. We at leadership levels will continue to pursue funding to make our community more vibrant, but we need your help.

## PREVENT

from Page 1A

In 2008, the Army confirmed more than 140 Soldier deaths, which made for the worst suicide record since the Army began logging these statistics in 1980. That's 25 more Soldiers' lives lost from 2007's 115 deaths.

Unfortunately, this year the trend continues.

In January, investigators confirmed 12 Soldier suicides and noted 12 cases are pending investigation. Two more Soldiers committed suicide in February, and 16 additional deaths are still being investigated, according to Army News Service.

Though efforts to combat these deaths were made, a new interactive video or Virtual Experience Immersive Learning Simulation entitled Beyond the Front was filtered throughout the Army to further educate Soldiers on just how to be proactive in seeking help. The video afforded Soldiers the opportunity to role play and make decisions for a deployed and home-station Soldier experiencing complex, yet realistic personal situations. By assuming the role of the main character in the video, the Soldiers' choices made for either life-saving or life threatening consequences.

The Beyond the Front video also presented Soldiers the major issues of suicide prevention, introduced warning signs and encouraged Soldiers to be proactive and seek help. Beyond the Front video and mate-

rials can be located at [www.army.mil/suite/page/603515](http://www.army.mil/suite/page/603515).

In addition to the video, the training provided students with a take-home Suicide Prevention Training Tip Card and an "ACE" card. The "ACE" card, made specifically in the form of a playing card so that Soldiers can keep it on their person at all times, reminds troops to ASK their buddy if he or she is thinking about attempting or committing suicide, CARE for their buddy by calmly controlling a situation and actively listening, and ESCORT their buddy to a behavioral health professional when necessary.

According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, most suicides and suicide attempts are reactions to loneliness, worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness and guilt. The Tip Card, derived from USACHPPM's guidance, details these suicidal feelings, provides warning signs of suicidal behavior and illustrates the risk factors of suicide. Additionally, the card defines a detailed description of depression.

The suicide awareness stand-down continues around the Army through March 15, but Stewart-Hunter offers local support resources to help prevent suicides year-round. The Division Mental Health can be reached by calling 767-7301 or 767-5718; the U.S. Medical Activity Department's Behavioral Health -

Clinic's telephone numbers are 767-1647/1654; and Tuttle's Behavioral Health Clinic can be reached at 315-6430. Army Community Service also lends its support; call 767-5808/5809 for ACS-Stewart or 315-6816 for ACS-Hunter. Fort Stewart's Army Substance Abuse Program can be reached by calling 767-5265/5267.

Other contact information includes the following:

- Military One Source – 1-800-342-9647
- National Suicide Prevention Hot Line – 1-800- 273-TALK (8255)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Suicide Prevention Hot line – 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- VA Readjustment Counseling Services – 1-800-827-1000, [www.va.gov/rcs](http://www.va.gov/rcs)
- American Legion Family Support Network – 1-800-504-4098, [familysupport@legion.org](mailto:familysupport@legion.org)
- National Military Family Association, Alexandria, Va. – 1-800-260-0218
- Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline – has a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operation. Call 1-800-984-8523 or DSN 328-0002.

**Editor's Note:** Information in this article was contributed by Army News Service and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

**GIVE BLOOD.  
GIVE LIFE.**

**It's Easy, Safe & URGENT!**

**AAFES parking lot  
Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**By donating blood on 3/14/09, you will be entered into a raffle for a \$100 gift certificate to AAFES!!**

**To schedule your appointment, please contact  
Tila Williams (912) 876-9585**

**Women's History Month  
Observance Program**

**Hunter Army Airfield  
Post Theater, March 19,  
1-2 p.m.**

**Featuring  
Brig. Gen. (Ret) Rebecca Halstead**

**POC: Sgt. 1st Class. Anderson  
3CAB, EOA • 912-315-3492**



# Moments in Marne History: Iron Mike, 3rd ID sharpens bayonets

**Sasha McBrayer**  
Fort Stewart Museum

In World War II, the month of February had seen the 3rd Infantry Division prevail against the Germans in holding the Anzio beachhead. As March began, all the enemy could do was withdraw and try to strengthen those prepared positions further from the beach.

March went on fairly quietly. Time could be spent on general upkeep. Bunkers were dug into the floors of stone houses that lined most roads. Ovens, which had been built into every little yard, were used as machine-gun nests. Even manure piles and straw stacks became automatic weapons positions for the Soldiers of the 3rd ID. On the Marne War Room map, each stone house was pin-pointed and designated by a number.

On March 10, houses under enemy control were attacked by Company L, 15th Infantry Regiment. The result was a surrender by German forces. According to the "History of the Third Infantry Division in WWII," edited by Donald G. Taggart, "Fights similar to these were frequent."

In the early morning hours of March 12, 1st Lt. Richard B. Peckinpugh, commander of Company K, 30th Infantry Regiment, led a combat patrol straight for enemy territory. "The patrol's record for that day [was] eleven enemy killed, twelve captured, [and] two machine-gun nests destroyed.

As the little battles to claim as many of the Italian stone houses as possible continued, one colonel remarked, "The price of ground here is skyrocketing like the price of Scotch whiskey—high as hell and just as hard to get."

Brigadier General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel was the new division commander at this time. He ordered a refreshing two-day rest for all the front-

line men which began March 8.

Born in 1893, O'Daniel was commissioned into the Infantry in 1917 in his early twenties through the Reserve Officers Training Camp just after graduating from the University of Delaware. While fighting in World War 1 during the Meuse-Argonne offensive under Mark Clark, he suffered a wound that passed right through his face - in and out. It was this injury that earned him the nickname "Iron Mike."

In WWII, O'Daniel would go globetrotting once more. He led the 168th Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division through Algiers in North Africa in 1942 and later served as Deputy Chief of Staff of the 3rd ID in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He assumed command of the Division at Anzio and led the way through France, Germany, and Austria. Having made a habit of staying perpetually near to the frontlines, the commanding general often closed any remarks by saying, "... sharpen your bayonets. I'll meet you on the objective."

Among the many great heroes of the Division who went down into the annals of history during the war, O'Daniel commanded the one and only Audie Murphy and is often seen in photographs awarding Murphy his Medal of Honor. After Germany fell, German Field Marshal Kesselring, who surrendered to O'Daniel, said that the Division was "the best we faced." During this war Iron Mike lost his son, John W. O'Daniel, Jr., a paratrooper, over Holland in 1944.

Later O'Daniel would head the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning from 1945 until 1948.



Courtesy of Fort Stewart Museum

**Lieutenant General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel stands with Maj. Gen. Robert "Shorty" Soule, both of whom served as commander's of the 3rd Infantry Division and are part of Marne history.**





Photos by Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Identical 2-year-old twins, Gary and Mikey Stubbs, wait patiently for their daddy, Spc. Ronald Stubbs, Jr., 92nd Chem. Co., STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., before the start of the 92nd Chem. Co.'s redeployment ceremony Mar. 6.

CHEMICAL

from Page 1A

“These Soldiers did an absolutely superb job,” said Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, deputy commanding general for Support for the 3rd Infantry Division.

Captain Rodney Norris, commander of the 92nd Chem. Co., spoke about how proud he was of his Soldiers as well as the level of responsibility his Soldiers commanded.

“They did a fantastic job while we were deployed,” said Norris. “Officers, noncommissioned officers as well as Soldiers really stepped up and performed at a level well above what was expected of them.”

Families traveled from everywhere to be at Cottrell Field when their Soldiers came home. One such family flew in from Los Angeles to be with their Soldier during this joyous occasion. The Browns came to see their daughter and brought with them her sister Hildi Brown and her 22-month-

old niece Markayla Brown.

“We are just so excited to see her,” said Verna and Fredrick Brown, parents of Spc. Zebada Brown. “I can’t wait to hug her and kiss her and tell her what a good job she’s done. Our hearts are full.”

Other families who couldn’t make the trip are planning vacations to visit friends and families across the U.S.

“We’re leaving the last week of March to go and do the family thing,” said Lauren Hamrick, wife of Sgt. Andrew Hamrick.

Lauren Hamrick said that it was scary to have her husband over seas fighting for their country but she was very proud of him and could not wait to wrap her arms around him. Their daughter, Demiree Hamrick, 4, also mentioned that she was going to get to see her daddy and was very excited.

“It’s all she’s talked about for 15 months,” said Lauren of her daughter.



Above: Sergeant Zebada Brown, 92nd Chem. Co., STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., is greeted by her parents, Verna and Fredrick Brown, who flew in from Los Angeles for her redeployment ceremony March 6.

Left: Staff Sergeant Cesar Martinez, 92nd Chem. Co., STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., greets his son, Cesar Martinez, Jr., 2, during a redeployment ceremony March 6.

Below: Family Members, fellow Soldiers and other excited friends await the return of the 92nd Chem. Co., STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., before their redeployment ceremony March 6.





# Barrack’s Life: Take advantage of intramural sports

**Spc. Michael Adams**  
*3rd ID Public Affairs*

The Army provides many opportunities for Soldiers to create long-lasting friendships and bonds through various organizations and events. One of those opportunities Soldiers and others can take advantage of is intramural sports leagues on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Fans will have a chance to support their favorite teams at the Marne Madness Basketball Championship where the winners of the Hunter Army Airfield Basketball Tournament and the Fort Stewart Basketball

Tournament will play for the 3rd Infantry Division Championship, March 25 at 7 p.m. at Hunter’s Tominac Fitness Center. Anyone interested in participating in an upcoming intramural league can sign up today. The Intramural Softball League will be holding a senior league, for participants 30 years old and older, a women only league, a co-ed league, and a compa-



ny-level league. All games at Fort Stewart will be played at the Bennett Sports Complex. At Hunter, games will be held at the Squires Sports Complex. Game times at both installations will be 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The unit-level league for Spring soccer is accepting volunteers to play. Games will be played at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Bennett Sports Complex, Monday through -

Thursday. Each roster is limited to 12 players including coaches. The Intramural Sports Office is also going to be holding a volleyball league for anyone interested in playing. Keep in mind that leagues will be cancelled if there aren’t enough Soldiers to participate. So during those long days of summer, get out with your battle buddies and drive the lane, hit a triple, score a goal or spike a volleyball. It’s a great way to get in shape, meet new people and make new friends. For more information on participating in a sports league, contact Ar Lewis at 767-9795.

## DPW holds sergeants major conference

**Randy Murray**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

The first Directorate of Public Works Sergeants Major Conference was held at Club Stewart’s Liberty Room, Feb. 25-27. The conference brought together DPW sergeants major from installations throughout the Installation Management Command Southeast Region. It was conceived, supported and led by Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr, IMCOM Southeast Region command sergeant major. “The purpose of this conference is to develop a common operating picture across IMCOM (Southeast Region) through alignment and enablement, focusing leaders on the Army’s commitment to maintaining and sustaining barracks readiness, using various barracks initiatives and programs,” Durr explained. “This conference is all about setting conditions for you to be successful. This conference is meant to prepare you to become the [subject matter expert] for managing barracks.” Durr, who led many of the discussions during the 3-day conference, is the former garrison command sergeant major for Fort Stewart. He said he began planning for this conference while he was still assigned to Stewart and notified his successor, Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin, that the first DPW Sergeants Major Conference would be held at Fort Stewart. Durr said one of the desired effects of the

conference was to sustain barracks across the IMCOM Southeast Region at a barracks readiness rating of not less than “amber plus,” and to facilitate an effective battle handover process of facilities for deploying and redeploying units. According to Sgt. Maj. Henry Knox, Fort Stewart’s DPW sergeant major, the DPW sergeant major assists and advises the garrison commander and command sergeant major as well as the DPW director on all single Soldier housing and Soldier related issues, including work orders, processes, health, life and safety issues on the installation. “I’d like to thank the entire IMCOM Southeast staff for leading and supporting this conference,” said Ervin, specifically addressing his predecessor, Command Sgt. Maj. Durr. “One thing Command Sgt. Maj. Durr told me before he left that I’ll always remember was to keep your focus on Soldiers and their Families, and everything else will fall in place.” Next year’s DPW Sergeants Major Conference is scheduled to be held at Fort Bragg.



Randy Murray

**Command Sergeant Major Charles Durr, IMCOM Southeast Region command sergeant major, expresses his appreciation during the DPW Sergeants Major Conference, Feb. 25-27 at Club Stewart.**



Sgt. Jason Stadel

### Spartan Soldier receives AAM

**Colonel Charles Sexton, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, awards the Army Achievement Medal to Pfc. Emily Christian, Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, for having the integrity to bring illegal activity taking place in her unit to the attention of her chain of command.**

### — Experience Brothers at War —

A new film “**Brothers at War**” will be screened for free at Fort Stewart’s Woodruff Theater, 7 p.m. March 18. The movie is about a Family of three brothers - two in the Army, one a documentary film maker. The one brother embedded in Iraq with his brothers to better understand why they serve in the Army. The film is going nationwide this month. Soldiers who are interested should give their name to their chain of command. Family Members are also invited to attend. The producer and director will be taking questions and answers from the audience after the show. Army Times did a movie review this week and gave it four stars.

## Marne Voices Speak Out What do you plan to do to take advantage of the nice weather?

“Lift weights and play basketball.”

**Staff Sgt. Eric Dewberry**  
Co. G, 1/41 FA



“Have a barbecue and spend time with my Family.”

**Jennifer Breeden**  
Family Member



“Spend time in Atlanta.”

**Spc. Charles Bruner**  
Co. G, 1/41 FA



“Go boating and camping in Santee, S.C.”

**Capt. Everett McKinney**  
3/69 Armor



“Ride my bike.”

**Robbie Asrat**  
Family Member



“Go to the beach”

**Shanita Dorsey**  
Army Civilian



**Voice your opinion!**  
**Write a letter to the editor!**  
Send to:  
Marne TV & The Frontline  
Attn: The Frontline, Editor  
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109  
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314  
or fax it to 912-767-9366.  
visit [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil)

**The Frontline**  
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109  
Building. 419  
Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314

© 2007

ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526  
**THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-5669**

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the **Frontline** are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs

Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3rd Infantry Division, and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no way connected

**3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. TONY CUCOLO**  
**GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS**

Garrison PAO — Richard Olson  
Command Information Officer — Jim Jeffcoat

Editorial/Design Staff  
Managing Editor — Jessica Obermeyer  
Editor — Sgt. Joseph McAtee  
Assignment Manager — Jennifer Scales  
Public Affairs Specialist — Randy Murray  
Production Manager — Sherron Walker  
Advertising Mgr. — Cynthia Barnes

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs  
Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart  
Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould  
Public Affairs Specialist — Kaytrina Curtis

with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$12/3 months, \$20/six months and \$36 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.



## MEMORIAL

from Page 1A



Spc. Amanda McBride

**Members of 4/64 Armor stand behind a monument dedicated to the fallen soldiers of the Tusker battalion during a memorial dedication March 5, at the Tusker Operation Iraq Freedom memorial.**

"This monument recognizes the sacrifices of two distinguished units in the 64th Armor Regiment, 1st Battalion Desert Rouges and 4th Battalion Tuskers," said Lt. Col. Johnnie L. Johnson, Jr., commander of 4/64 Armor. "Both battalions recently conducted missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Johnson spoke of the ceremony as a way to pay tribute to the lives of the Soldiers.

"We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to honor these eight dedicated Soldiers who are no

longer with us," Johnson said. "We recognize and are humbled by their sacrifice and will continue to hold the warmest thoughts and memories of them in our hearts."

The eight Soldiers honored in the memorial service were Staff Sgt. Christopher Hake; Sgt. Steve McCoy; Cpl. James Gudridge; Cpl. William O'Brien; Spc. Jose Rubio-Hernandez; Pfc. Andrew Habsieger; Pvt. George Delgado and Pvt. Ronald Harrison.

"Among them are fathers, sons, brothers, husbands and comrades; they came from all walks

of life and from across our great nation," Johnson said. "Each of them joined our ranks for various reasons but you undoubtedly find similarities in their stories and memories of them."

Family members from the McCoy and Habsieger families attended the ceremony to memorialize their Soldier and the other fallen Soldiers.

While in Iraq, the battalion accomplished many things to help the local population. Those accomplishments, Johnson said, were only possible due to the commitment of his Soldiers.

"We enjoyed many successes during our 14 months of combat in Iraq because our ranks are filled with men and women who exemplify courage, commitment, perseverance and sacrifice," Johnson said. "These qualities, among others, are what makes our Army the greatest in the history of the world."

The Tusker Battalion became the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment during a reflagging ceremony Monday as the brigade transitions from a Heavy Brigade Combat Team to a Light Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

# NCOs visit D.C., emphasize installation concerns

**By Master Sgt. Tami Hillis**  
4th BCT Public Affairs

Two Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division accompanied Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas and other community leaders to Washington, D.C. Feb. 23-26.

"(Major) General (Anthony) Cucolo (3rd ID commanding general) and I were talking and he said this was the Year of the (noncommissioned officer) and therefore we thought it would be a good gesture to take them along on our annual visit to Washington," said Thomas, who has been the mayor for 14 months. "Since it was the Year of the NCO, we wanted to show the Congressmen and Senators the type of people we have serving the United States of America."

The trip to D.C. fell in line with one of the three major initiatives that support the Year of the NCO: informing and educating the American people, Congress, and government institutions of the roles, responsibilities and the quality service of the NCO Corps.

Accompanying Thomas on his visit were Staff Sgt. Joshua Ridge, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, and Sgt. Michael Holbrook, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT.

During the visit the group met with Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson, Congressmen Jack Kingston and John Barrow, and visited the Installation Management Command Headquarters; Army Corps of Engineers Small Business; Department of Agriculture; U.S. Interagency on Homelessness and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"I think the highlights simply were having (the Georgia delegation) recognize the presence of our Soldiers and have them ask them questions about what they thought about the Army and what they thought about the (upcoming) growth in the Hinesville community," said Thomas.

During the visit, the Soldiers discussed the availability of

housing on post and in the Hinesville community, as well as the traffic situation entering and exiting post.

"I feel that the trip was extremely worthwhile due to the fact that the mayor's main focus was on the entry ways to Fort Stewart being widened in certain areas, and our opinions were from the actual experience of entering and exiting the post during times of heavy traffic," said Holbrook, who is the 3rd ID Soldier of the Year for 2008. "I believe that our input assisted in putting the plan in motion, because the Congressmen and Senators actually asked for our personal opinions, and we answered honestly that it was difficult to make it on and off post during the 'rush' hours."

Also, with a new brigade coming in, Thomas said he expects the community to grow by at least 20 percent, which will only increase the current traffic problem and the need for additional housing in the area.

If there isn't enough decent housing in the area when a unit

gets ready to deploy, Soldiers' family members may be inclined to leave the area, said Ridge, who is a native of Lake City, Ark., and the 3rd Inf. Div. NCO of the Year for 2008.

"I think if they don't create a mass of single-family housing before Soldiers deploy, the Families will leave," said four-year Army veteran, Ridge. "I'm not going to leave my Family back in Hinesville in a trailer park when they could be in a decent home someplace else ... and that would end up bringing the economy down in the Hinesville area if the Families leave."

Thomas said that having the Soldiers speak about the housing situation made it more credible than if he would have gone alone.

"They spoke about the housing situation and how it affects Soldiers, their performance, and their families," said Thomas. "The NCOs accentuated our presence in Washington. The people that they met were very receptive to them and they were

very impressed by the way (the Soldiers) handled themselves."

In addition to talking about the housing and traffic concerns, the Soldiers also got to see first-hand how their government worked.

"Meeting with the Senators and Congressmen from Georgia was something that I really never thought of myself as doing. It was an amazing experience," said Holbrook, a 24-year-old native of Federal Way, Wash. "Sitting in and listening to them going over with the mayor and the mayor's entourage about their plans for Hinesville and Fort Stewart was amazing."

"They had a chance to see their government in action," said Thomas. "They had a chance to really see how different agencies support and help the communities and the Army. Generally, most young NCOs never get to see how their government at that level works. It was a great opportunity for them and they took advantage of the opportunity."

# Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

## Marne tax centers open for tax assistance

Tax centers are open now through April 15 for free tax preparation for active-duty Soldiers, retirees and eligible Family Members. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-in and drop-off services are available. Call 315-3675 for information and appointments at Hunter Army Airfield, or 767-1040 for Fort Stewart.

## Become a commissioned officer

Find out about the division commander's Direct Select Officer Candidate School option. The division commander will directly select 20 Soldiers to attend OCS. The Direct Select to OCS option can help further your education and your service to our great nation as a commissioned officer. Contact your chain of command; applications are due to G1, May 8. Learn more at [usmilitary.about.com/od/armytrng](http://usmilitary.about.com/od/armytrng).

## 90-day rule is back

The "90-day window rule" is coming back to the retention program. If a Soldier is within 90 days of leaving the service (ETS), they cannot reenlist. Soldiers who want to re-enlist and are within the 90-day window, have to submit a DA form 4187 signed by the company commander and endorsed by the battalion commander. In the remarks block of the 4187, Soldiers must state why they waited so to re-enlist. This rule will go back into effect on or about April 1.

## Weekend Dining Facility hours posted

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facilities for 14 - 15 March are Provider Dining Facility, building 726, and the Vanguard Dining Facility, building 512. Stewart dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for supper. The Hunter weekend dining facility is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Hunter dining

facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for supper.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building is open on weekends. The Warrior Transition Battalion weekend dining facility serving hours are 8-9:30 a.m. for breakfast., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch, and 5-6:30 p.m. for dinner.

## Babysitting classes offered

The Hunter babysitting course is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 28-29, at the School Age Youth. Call 315-5425 for more information. On Stewart, the training is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 8-9 and June 22-23 at the Youth Center, building 7338. For more information, call 767-2312.

There is no charge for the training. Upon completion of all required training, teens will receive a Red Cross first aid/infant and child CPR certification.

## Soldier and Me Ball returns

The Fort Stewart Officers' Spouses' Club will sponsor a Soldier and Me Ball for Soldiers of all ranks and their children 4-7 p.m., March 22, at Club Stewart. Formal dress is encouraged. Tickets are \$10 each and must be reserved by contacting Amanda, 756-5384, or Catherine, 877-5560. Deadline to reserve a ticket is 6 p.m., March 13. Payment will be accepted at the door.

## Stewart

### Construction on Frank Cochran Drive

Work will be performed for storm water improvements and renovation of the parking lots at buildings 1137 and 1145 off of Frank Cochran Drive, Monday through April 17, from approximately 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please be aware of flagmen and expect delays during construction. Parking in these areas will be limited

and pedestrians must use designated foot paths as construction barricades will restrict access during renovation. For further information, please contact the DPW Environmental Division at 767-2010.

## Shoppette under construction

Victory Shoppette is being renovated through June 30. Store and gas pumps will remain open until April 10 when the pumps close. The store will close May 15 through June 25. For more information, call 876-8434.

## Hunter

### NSPS Civilian briefing slated

There will be a Hunter Army Airfield NSPS Civilian briefing at the Hunter Club 10:30-1130 a.m., March 20.

The Garrison Pay Pool Manager, Mike Biering, will brief Civilians on lessons learned and results from the most recent NSPS rating period. All Hunter Army Airfield Garrison NSPS Civilians who didn't attend the briefings at Fort Stewart are expected to attend.

### Ranger DFAC now open

The Ranger Dining Facility, building 110, is now open. Hours are 8 - 9:30 a.m. for breakfast, noon - 1:30 p.m. for lunch, and 4:30 - 6 p.m. for dinner. Join the Rangers for Seafood Thursdays!

### Learn about foreign policy

Famed author of "Black Hawk Down," Mark Bowden presents a program on the construction of the F-22 and its foreign policy implications 8 p.m., March 19, at Armstrong Atlantic State University's Ballroom.

The event is free for members, students, and active military and their Family Members; \$5 for non-mem

# Balfour Beatty Communities

## Join neighborhood huddles

Join us for a huddle once a month. We are combining all neighborhood huddles for a Friday meeting at 10:30 a.m., at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center. BBC representatives will address any issues or concerns residents may have with their neighborhoods.

The Fort Stewart event will be 4

p.m., today at the playground across from Brittin Elementary School.

## Saint Patty's Day Party

Join us for a green-themed party 4:30-5:30 p.m., March 17, at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

The Stewart event is 3:30 p.m.,

March 16, at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

## Recycling relay race slated

We are creating a fun and physical way to learn about recycling 4 p.m., March 27, at the BBC leasing office.

The Stewart event is 3:30 p.m., March 26 at the Southern Oaks

Community Center. For more information, call 408-2478 or e-mail [s@bbc-grp.com](mailto:s@bbc-grp.com).

## Help the environment

BBC at Fort Stewart is providing each resident a recycling bin to be placed in their new apartment.

For more information, call 408-2501.



# Education Matters



## Mechanics: Register for ASE

Automotive Service Excellence certification testing will be administered at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield on May 7, 12, and 14. Registration deadline is Monday for those testing at Hunter Army Airfield or Fort Stewart. Testing is open to all military personnel.

Contact Wendell Johnston or Olivia Penrod to register at For Fort Stewart at 767-9569.

For testing at Hunter, contact Ken Brown or Reginald Scott at 315-6130.

The first three tests are free for Soldiers; however, the Soldier still pays a \$36 registration fee. If a Soldier chooses to take more than the three funded tests, those testing fees are due at the time of registration. Recertification is not paid by DANTES. Both the registration and additional test fees are due at the time of registration and are non-refundable. Tests will begin promptly at 9 a.m. on the test days. Examinees need to report at 8:45 a.m.

## Spouses' Clubs announce scholarships

The Enlisted Spouses' Club sponsors the annual Rita Ackerman Scholarship Award. Five hundred dollars is given to the spouse of an active, retired, or deceased enlisted Soldier residing in the Fort Stewart area. A selection committee will award the merit-based scholarship based on academic records, transcripts, letters of recommendation, volunteer activities and an essay written by the applicant.

Applications are available at the Stewart-Hunter education centers and must be postmarked no later than April 1. For more information, click on [www.fortstewartesc.com](http://www.fortstewartesc.com).

The Officer's Spouses' Club awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family Members of

all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield communities.

There are four categories of applicants: high school seniors, continuing undergraduate, undergraduate spouse and graduate spouse continuing education. Applications are at local high schools, Army Community Services, the Stewart/Hunter education centers, and the OSC Web site: [thesteelmagnolia.org](http://thesteelmagnolia.org). The application deadline is March 18.

This is a merit-based scholarship; financial need is not a consideration.

## College registration now open

Enrollment for the next term is now underway for both on-post and distance learning classes. Many courses are offered during the day. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College – 767-2070/ Hunter Airfield 315-4090, March 16 to May 9.

Columbia College – 767-5336/ Hunter Army Airfield 352-8635, March 23 to May 16.

Embry Riddle – 767-3930/ Hunter Army Airfield 352-5252, March 23 to May 24.

Savannah Tech – 408-2430, April 1 to June 15.

Webster University – 767-5357/ Hunter Army Airfield 354-0033, March 16 to May 14.

## Register for ESL classes

English as a Second Language classes are for those wanting to improve their English skills. ESL registration for new and returning students, is in room 227, 9 a.m. to noon, March 23 and 24.

This quarter, beginning courses are offered 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday, starting March 26. Intermediate courses are offered 9 a.m. to noon,

Monday and Wednesday, beginning March 25. For more information, please call 368-7322.

## Transition-to-Teachers sessions slated

The Georgia Troops to Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition to Teaching 90-minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options.

This includes the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program. GaTAPP is a two-year program that allows those with bachelor degrees to teach and certify at the same time.

All military spouses are invited, but they must register with the Military OneSource Center to be provided any financial support. The briefing begins at 10 a.m. and is held at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. Scheduled session will be March 18. Call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official Web site is [www.tttga.net](http://www.tttga.net).

## Teaching certification seminar offered

The Liberty Center Director of Teacher Education Program will conduct Georgia teacher certification seminars focusing on the Armstrong Atlantic State University master of arts in teaching program.

The M.A.T. allows those eligible individuals to pursue a graduate degree and obtain initial teacher certification in Georgia. The monthly sessions are held at 5 p.m. at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100.

The next seminar will be conducted March 18. For more information, call 877-1910.

## BBC Scholarship deadline extended

**Dianne Borges**  
*Balfour Beatty Communities*

The Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is pleased to share the news that the application deadline for its scholarship program has been extended to April 15 from the original deadline of March 15.

The scholarship program is one of many ways the foundation strives to honor its commitment to active-duty servicemembers and their Families. The scholarships are awarded to those students who are in need of financial assistance, recognizing not only their educational and leadership efforts, but also the contribution of their parents and the sacrifices the children have made in their parents' absences.

The application, details and requirements for theses scholarships, which are valued from \$1,000 to \$2,500, can be found at [www.bbcommunities-foundation.org](http://www.bbcommunities-foundation.org).

# New legislation for Army College Fund

## Education Center

Soldiers who enlisted for their first term of service between April 1, 1993 and Sept. 30, 2004 with Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) and Army College Fund (ACF) initial enlistment incentives who are now separated or retired and are drawing or have drawn MGIB and ACF benefits and who believe they did not receive full ACF benefits as defined in their enlistment contract can receive that difference.

A recent change to the law permits the Secretary of the Army to grant relief in certain limited circumstances this being one of them.

Individuals who believe they

were misled as to the amount of the ACF benefit, which includes MGIB and ACF kicker benefits, and who believe they have been denied full compensation, can now apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) for relief.

Under the provisions of the revised law, successful applicants must be provided payment of additional benefits by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) not later than Dec. 31, 2009.

In order to accomplish this, petitions to the ABCMR for relief must be submitted on a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Records, with supporting

documentation not later than Oct. 1, 2009.

The DD Form 149 and information on submitting the form can be found on the Army Review Boards Agency Web site, [arba.army.pentagon.mil](http://arba.army.pentagon.mil) under "Correction of Military Records."

For general information on MGIB, ACF, and other educational benefits, please contact your servicing Army Education Assistance Center or a Department of Veterans Affairs benefits counselor.

You may also consult the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site for the latest news updates and the online application for educational benefits at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).



# 1/3 Aviators hone up for future training

## Aerial gunnery exercise preps pilots to fight as one

Spc. Monica K. Smith  
CAB Public Affairs

The silhouette of an Apache slowly comes into focus as it begins its descent on the range, a dark spot against a background of Georgia stars. It rotates to face the range, three miles of open field, perfect for training.

The two pilots in the Apache comprise one of eight teams from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment participating in aerial gunnery, Feb. 26 at Fort Stewart.

"We're shooting aerial gunnery to qualify crews for upcoming training events and future deployments," said Capt. Jeff Minders, member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/3 Avn. "It's to hone our combat skills. The better gun pilots we are, the better

we are at supporting the ground forces.

The gunnery consists of 12 scenarios, during which the pilots fire their rockets, missiles and 30-mm cannon, both in the day and at night. The scenarios comprise of pop-up targets and require both the front seat and the back seat pilot to work together to accomplish their engagements.

"It develops the pilots as a crew for crew coordination because the AH-64 is a two-person aircraft. Both pilots are required to operate the aircraft, and they have to work, in a sense, as one," said Chief Warrant Officer Guy Davis, member of HHC, 1/3 Avn., and master gunner. "They have to maintain good crew coordination. It's one of the things I grade – how well these pilots work as a team."

The pilots are also graded on the number of hits and the time in which they accomplish the engagements. A practice run is performed after which the pilots go over their engagements. The video from the aircraft is used to analyze the pilots. In addition, the Aerial

Weapon Scoring System on the range has sensors in proximity to the targets which detect laser energy and bullet or rocket impact. After the range is completed, a table of what the sensors recorded is printed out. This report is coupled with the video for analysis.

"We go over weapons delivery, steady platform – everything has to line up," said Davis. "There are different things you have to do in the aircraft, and as, I pick up on things they do incorrectly, I correct them. If necessary, we train before they go up for the qualification table."

The range simulates the conditions of Iraq and Afghanistan, said Minders. Some of the scenarios require the aircraft to dive while a pilot is shooting, and others require both pilots to fire weapons simultaneously.

"It prepares them for combat operations in addition to this being weapons training, because this is exactly how we employ this aircraft in combat," said Davis. "We have to have precise weapons on time, on target."

# Chamber of Commerce hosts appreciation luncheon

Spc. Monica K. Smith  
CAB Public Affairs

A military appreciation luncheon took place, Feb. 27 at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa. The luncheon, which recognized all branches of service, was organized by the Savannah Chamber of Commerce and included sponsors from various Savannah businesses.

Third Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo was the luncheon's keynote speaker. During his speech, Cucolo brought five noncommissioned officers, one from each service branch, to stand on stage with him and

explain to the audience why Georgia is important to servicemembers.

"Standing up here, ladies and gentlemen, are folks from Tennessee, California, Mississippi, Maryland, and Georgia, from all over your United States. They travel all over the world, but they're from your United States, and home is where the Armed Forces sends you and Georgia is our home," said Cucolo. "And you need to know that when these gentlemen deploy, when they go wheels up and head out to sea, when they go away, the last place, the last bit of America they see, is Georgia. The last place they dine is in your restaurants; the last place they shop is in your shops; the last place they

get that hug and get that kiss is somewhere here in coastal Georgia. That one last piece of America they see are the twinkling lights of the coastline of Georgia."

One of the honored NCO representatives was Army Sgt. James Truitt, member of Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion and 3rd ID Soldier of the Year.

Truitt was recognized at the luncheon as the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce Army Soldier of the Year.

"For the city of Savannah Chamber of Commerce to invite us up here and honor us is really special to me," said Truitt.

Dr. Bill Cathcart, chairman of the Savannah Area Military Affairs Council

said he hoped the luncheon meant a great deal to the servicemembers.

"It really is an honor to be brought forward by your service branch and be considered the Airman, Coast Guardsman, Soldier, (or) Seaman of the year," said Cathcart. "That is a big deal, and we're just so proud to be a part of that and to be able to host this kind of gathering that every year does spotlight top NCOs."

"This was a really great day," Truitt said. "I appreciate Savannah. I appreciate the Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the 3rd Infantry Division. Thank you to Command Sgt. Maj. (Jesse L.) Andrews, and Maj. Gen. Cucolo for giving me the invite. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

## DHR Spotlight Robin Ellert

### Special to the Frontline

Dr. Robin K. Ellert is the Chief of On-Duty Programs and GoArmyEd for the Army Continuing Education System at Fort Stewart. Ellert began her Army career as an enlisted Soldier and has continued her federal career with ACES since 1999. She has worked in Butzbach, Friedberg, Giessen and Heidelberg, Germany as well as at Hunter Army Airfield.

In 2005, Ellert was chosen to work with Headquarters and Installation Management Command as one of seven representatives to assist with conceptualizing and establishing GoArmyEd, the Army's portal for tuition assistance. Since then, she has been recognized by



ACES as a subject matter expert and will assist with government testing of the newest GoArmyEd version scheduled for release in April 2009.

Ellert received her doctorate in Educational Administration from Georgia Southern University in 2008. She also holds two master's degrees; one in Adult Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University and one in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland at College Park. Ellert will be attending the CES Intermediate Course at Fort Belvoir, Va. in June 2009.

Ellert currently resides in Hinesville, Ga, with her husband Don, her daughter, Mystery, and their two dogs.

## AWARD from Page 1A

The vet clinics are located in Kings Bay; Parris Island, S.C.; Jacksonville, Tampa, Key West, Fla; Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Winn has paid out more than \$175,000 in reenlistment bonuses in the past four months. This is the first

time since before September 11, 2001 that Winn has completed their reenlistment mission before the end of the second quarter.

Winn was also awarded the SERMC Commanding General's Top Producer for the first quarter FY 09.



Spc. Gaelen Lowers

## Soldiers learn new laundry system

Sgt. Bryan Bishop, 473rd Quartermaster Company, trains his Soldiers on the Laundry Advanced System. Pictured from left to right are Pfc. Bryant Borri, Spc. Catherine Delaney, Pfc. Raul Robles and Bishop.

Check out  
The Frontline  
and Quality  
Time online at  
[www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil)



# Sergeant earns title of best Spartan NCO

**Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley**  
*2nd BCT Public Affairs*

Thirteen Spartan Brigade noncommissioned officers took one day of grueling competition to see who would be the brigade's best NCO. "I feel as if there were a lot of NCOs (noncommissioned officers) in the

competition who were actually better than me," said Sgt. Jacob Kersey, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. "I just went out there, did my best, and actually won the competition," he added.

The sergeant competed against 12 other Spartan NCOs in 2nd BCT's Best NCO Competition March 4 at Pond Ten on Fort Stewart and finished the competition on top earning the title of 2nd BCT's Best NCO. "The competition lasted for a day, though it was originally scheduled to last a little longer," he said. "Completing all six events in such a short period of time was difficult, but I stayed focused," he said. The six events that made up the competition included a six-mile road march in full gear, a host of pull-ups and sit-ups, maintaining a vehicle, Soldier counseling, accessing a casualty during a situational awareness exercise, and assembling and performing a functions check on a M-4, M-9, and M240B, respectively. First Sergeant Jovito Casanova, HHC, 1/30 Inf., attended the event in support of Kersey. Casanova said not only did the NCOs have to complete each of the six tasks, but they had to show that they were in control at all times. The competition tested NCO skills, their performance in a garrison environment and how well they handled combat situations he said. Kersey said because the six-mile road march was completed before the pull-ups and sit-ups, the competition

was similar to an Army Physical Fitness Test in reverse. "The ruck march was extremely tiring," Kersey said. "The first mile really wore me out because we had to have our pro (gas) mask on the entire mile. After that it just kept getting harder, but that's when I told myself 'put one foot in front of the other and you'll make it.'" Kersey said that his favorite portion of the competition was assembling and performing malfunctions check on the weapons. "I thought that part of the competition was pretty neat. The time limit made it challenging and exciting at the same time," he said. The junior NCO said that although he is truly honored to be 2nd BCT's Best NCO, this is not the end of his accomplishments as a leader. "Winning this competition made me proud, and it has motivated me to do even bigger things as a Soldier and NCO," said Kersey. Kersey added that he believes he has also given his Soldiers a reason to look up to him. "I'm just happy to be able to set a positive example for them. Mainly, I just want them to see that it pays off to be competitive; I want them to know that they can achieve anything they push themselves to."



Sgt. Jason Stadel

**Spartan Soldiers work to complete the six-mile march in full battle gear March 4 from Pond Ten on post during the 2nd BCT Best Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition. They also had to wear gas masks for the first mile of the march.**

## MEDIC


Anderson, who has worked with Sutton for the last eight months, sees Sutton as one of the most competent NCOs he has ever worked with. "Sergeant Sutton always comes up with ways to train and get our Soldiers better prepared," he said. Anderson said an example had occurred the week prior, and that it was a perfect illustration of Sutton's ability to think on her feet and make the most out of any situation. The company was scheduled to run a weapons qualifying range and needed two of Sutton's medics there for safety purposes. "Sutton (suggested) that all of her medics should run a field exercise

while the range is going on," he said. "Instead of just providing two medics, she went above and beyond and turned it into a training event. That is what an NCO is supposed to do." The next day, she coordinated getting a Stryker medical evacuation vehicle from 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment to come to the range so that the medics could train with them, Anderson said. Sutton said the BSTB has not been assigned any Strykers, but she wanted her Soldiers to be prepared in case they receive one of the vehicles during the 3rd HBCT's next deployment. Anderson said that Sutton's anticipation of future taskings has made his

job as first sergeant much easier. Sutton believes that getting things done earlier gives her more time to take care of her Soldiers. "As an NCO, you wear a lot of different hats," she said. "In addition to making sure your Soldiers are trained, there are times you need to be their mother, their sister or brother, and their friend. As a leader, I try to mentor my Soldiers and lift them up. I have seen some NCOs break their Soldiers down so much that they wind up wanting to get out of the Army. I try to find a balance." Anderson believes that Sutton has found the right balance. "I would say she is an NCO who

cares about her Soldiers," he said. "She leads from the front. She takes the time to get them prepared and doesn't ask them to do things she doesn't do. I think that's the mark of a great leader." Sutton thinks allowing her Soldiers to get hands-on experience before they go overseas is an important part of ensuring they are prepared. Her training schedule focuses on more than just making her combat medics qualified to do their jobs. "I want medics that know how to handle stress," she said. "They need to be flexible and be ready to try different things. I want someone who is unafraid to try new things and wants to get out there."

from Page 1A



## Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

### Cardboard Boat Regatta @ HAAF

14 Mar., Noon – Tominac Fitness Center Indoor Pool, Bldg 919  
Family Readiness Groups, military units and DoD Civilian organizations are encouraged to design a craft and compete in the regatta. Prizes for best design, winner of the race and most outrageous sinking. To register or for construction tips and rules, e-mail "diwilson1@us.army.mil" or call 315-2019.

### Teen Babysitting Class @ HAAF

16-20 Mar. Sign-Up Deadline; Class 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (28-29 Mar.)  
School Age Youth Services, Bldg 1289  
Registration 16-20 Mar. Hunter Child, Youth and School Services/4-H Babysitting Course. Familiarize teens (ages 13 & older) with babysitting responsibilities and provide necessary information for them to become capable, caring, and trustworthy sitters. Upon completion of passing all required training, teens receive Red Cross First Aid/Infant and Child CPR certification required to become certified babysitter. No charge. Limited space, so register early. For more information or to register, call 315-5425.

### Atlanta Hawks vs. Orlando Magic Atlanta Day Trip

17 Mar. Sign-Up Deadline; Trip 4 Apr. – Philips Arena, Atlanta  
Depart 9 a.m. from FS & HAAF Leisure Travel Offices to Atlanta. Visit Atlanta metro area attractions at each person's expense vicinity of Philips Arena prior to game @ 7 p.m. Cost \$55 per person includes transportation, game ticket/Chick-fil-A meal voucher. 767-8609 (FS) or 315-3674 (HAAF)

### Army Spouse Employment Partnership Job Fair @ HAAF

19 Mar., 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Hunter Club, Bldg 6015  
Features several local partner corporations recruiting for various levels and position types in career fields of customer services, education, hospitality, medical and retail sales. Open to Family Members with Military ID cards. 315-6816

### Spring Time in Orlando Trip Sign-up @ HAAF

20 Mar. Sign-up Deadline;  
Trip 4-6 Apr. – HAAF Leisure Travel Office, Bldg 1279  
Group will depart early morning from HAAF Leisure Travel Office to Orlando. Cost \$275 for 1-4 persons per hotel room, transportation and (2) Wonder Works admission tickets. Details: 315-3674.

### Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ HAAF

24 Mar., 5 p.m. – School Age Services/Youth Center, Bldg 1289  
Committee meets to go over issues concerning military youth. Concerned parents of Youth Center members are encouraged to attend, make comments, and bring up suggestions or concerns. 315-5708

### Storytime: Puppets in the Children's Room @ FS Library

25 Mar., 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg 411  
Children hear stories about puppets. For more information, call 767-2828.

### Young Adult Book Club @ FS Library

26 Mar., 6 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg 411  
Join new young adults book club. Receive book to read this month, discuss books for future months, brainstorm ideas for future craft projects. 767-2828

### Family Survivor Weekend @ FS & HAAF

26 Mar. Sign-up deadline; Event 7 - 9 p.m. (27 Mar) & 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. (28 Mar) Holbrook Pond @ FS & Lotts Island @ HAAF  
Family Outdoor event w/ scavenger hunts, hiking, obstacle courses, litter carry contests, and other activities at both locations. Families organized into tribal teams (create tribe name, logo and design flag) for competition among each other. Closing ceremony and barbecue. Cost \$25 per Family, limited space. For details, call 767-4316.



# 1/15th Infantry names ‘top tank’

**Spc. Benjamin Hutto**  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, competed against each other for the title of “top tank” during qualification Feb. 22 -28 at Hastings Range at Fort Benning.

After receiving new M1-A1SA Abrams tanks in January, Company C and D Soldiers spent one month familiarizing themselves with the improvements made to the Abrams tanks used during the unit’s previous deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

First Lieutenant Ian M. Ahearn, a tank commander with Company D, appreciates the upgrades.

“Everything is moving towards digital technology, more electronics,” he said. “It makes for easier maintenance because diagnostics are much quicker and simpler.”

“There are improved optics and a redesigned targeting system,” said 1st Lt. Jason A. Bolsinger, a tank commander with Company C.

The redesign added “SA” (situational awareness) to the name and replaced the previous imaging system with a new forward looking infrared (FLIR) system that enhances the images from the battlefield, he said.

Bolsinger’s crew consists of a gunner, Sgt. Joshua Rennels; a driver, Spc. Geoffrey Savage; and a loader, Pfc. Vincent Cluke.

The driver, gunner and commander all have improved optics, allowing for better mobility and target engagement at night, Ahearn said.

“We all see sharper images thanks to the FLIR system,” said Bolsinger. “It shows greater detail to help us identify enemy targets at a greater distance.”

Bolsinger’s crew used the new technology to earn the title “top tank” for the entire battalion.

“I’m really proud of my crew,” Bolsinger

said. “Every person executed their mission, from the driver to the gunner to the loader.”

Each tank ran the course three times in preparation for the qualification.

“The qualification consists of 10 enemy target engagements, both day and night, using various degrades of the tank,” said Bolsinger.

The scenarios include different levels of degradation to the equipment to simulate damage the tank might incur during a battle, he continued.

“My gunner did not miss a single target, plus he eliminated two enemy tank targets with one round, so we actually used less than the required amount of ammunition to eliminate all of the targets,” explained Bolsinger.

The crew has bragging rights as the “top tank” in the battalion, at least until the tanks roll to the range again.

“It feels really good,” said Bolsinger. “We worked really hard for it. We came to do our best, and the extra work really paid off.”



Spc. Benjamin Hutto

***First Lieutenant Jason A. Bolsinger, Co. C, 1/15th Inf., 3rd HBCT, performs maintenance on a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a M1-A1SA Abrams tank during “top tank” qualification Feb. 22 – 28 at Fort Benning, Ga.***



Sgt. Jason Stadel

***Sergeant First Class Terry Upchurch, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, is awarded the Army Commendation Medal by Col. Charles Sexton, 2nd BCT commander, Feb. 27 at Rocky’s. Upchurch was recognized for his work as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the expert infantry badge qualification held last month.***